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Laws, Ordinances and Decrees, made upon Friday *the twentieth day of* July, *in the Year of our Lord* 1666: *And in the Eighteenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord,* CHARLES the Second, *of* England, Scotland, France *and* Ireland, *KING, Defender of the Faith, &c. By the Right Honourable,* John *Lord* Berkley, Richard *Lord* Gorges, Thomas Chicheley *and* Robert Hampson *Esq; four of the Bailiffs of the Corporation of the Great Level of the Fens:* John Russel *Esq;* *Sir* Charles Harbord *Kt;* William Denton *Doctor in Physick,* William Crane, Roger Jenyns, *and* John Bradborn *Esquires, six of the Conservators of the said Corporation. That is to say,*

BRITISH MUSEUM

IN*primis,* It is hereby Declared, Ordered, Adjudged and Decreed, That the Rivers, Drains, Wear-Dykes, Water-Courses, Banks, Fore-lands, Sasses, Sluces, Tunnels, Bridges and Works hereafter particularly mentioned, are,

and ſhall be for ever hereafter, declared and taken to be the Common and Publick Rivers, Drains, Sewers, Wear-Dykes, Water-courſes, Banks, Fore-lands, Saſſes, Sluces, Tunnels, Bridges, and Works of the ſaid Great Level of the Fens. *That is to ſay,*

1. The Bank againſt *Welland* River, from *Peakirk* to the Bars at the Weſt end of *Crowland*, and the Wear-dyke to the ſame.

2. *Wearington* new Drain, with its Banks and Wear-dyke.

3. The Drain called the *Stoor-Nook* Drain, from *Stoor-Nook* to the Adventurers Lands in *Borrow* great Fen; and from thence by the Outring-dyke of the ſaid Adventurers Lands to the Eaſt corner thereof, and from thence by *Pepper Lake* to *New South Ean*, and from thence by the *New South Ean* to *Clowes Croſs*, and from thence by the *Shire-drain* to the Sea.

4. The *Wryde Stream*.

5. The *Eighteen-foot* Drain, through *Murrow Common* to *Clowes Croſs*.

6. The *Old South Ean* from *Guyhurn corner* to *Clowes Croſs*.

7. *Thorney Dyke*, from *Cats-water* by *Willow-hall*, as far as the Saſs in the North bank of *Moorton*'s Leam.

8. *Moorton*'s Leam with its Banks and Wear-dykes.

9. *Stand-ground* Saſs.

10. The old courſe of the River of *Nean*, from *Stand-*

Stand-ground Sasse to *Well-creek* Sasse, with the Sasses at *Floods Ferry* near *Wittlesea*-Dykes end, and the other Sasse near the Eastern end of *Well-Town*, and the Sasse at the lower end of *Well-creek*.

11. *Wittlesea*-Dyke.

12. *Bevil*'s Leam, from *Wittlesea*-Mere to the Sasse that is to be set near *Baldwin Glossom*'s house, at the lower end of *Waldersea* Receptacle.

13. *Moor*'s Drain, from *Bevil*'s Leam to the *Old Nean* below *March*.

14. The *Delf*-Dyke, from *Wittlesea* to the *Old Nean*.

15. *New* Dike, from *Cunnington* Brook at the upper corner of *Holnie* Receptacle to *Hook-Load*.

16. And *Hook-Load* to the *Old Nean* by *Burbridge*-stream into the *Old Nean*.

17. *Monks Load*.

18. The Drain from *Raveley*'s Nook to *Burbridge* stream, between *Woodwalton*-common and *Ramsey* and *Raveley*-common.

19. The *Fourty-foot* Drain, from the West-outring Dyke of the *Adventurers Lands*, taken out of *Doddington*, *Warboys*, *Ramsey*, &c. to *Welches* Damn.

20. The *West-water*, from the *Fourty-foot* through *Benwick*.

21. The Drain leading from *Chartress*-Ferry to *Slade-gate*, and so to the *Fourty-foot* Drain.

22. The *Twenty-foot* Drain, from *Erith*-common to *Well-creek*, and the Sluce at the lower end

thereof, with the Bank thereof, and Sluces therein.

23. *Hammond's Eau*, from the *Adventurers* Lands in *Sommerſham* high Fen to the *Twenty-foot* Drain aforeſaid.

24. Old *Bedford* River, from *Welch*'s Damn to the *old Owze*, with the Sluces at the end thereof.

25. The *Sixteen-foot* Drain, from the *Thirty-foot* Drain to *Popham's Eau*.

26. *Popham's Eau*, with the Brick Sluce therein.

27. *London's Load*.

28. The Drain called the *Tongues*, from *Nordel* Sluce through *Down-ham*-common to the Sluce at the end thereof, near *Stow Towns-end*.

29. South Bank of the River of *Owze*, from the *Hard-lands* of *Swacey* to the *Hermitage*, and the Saſs or Sluce there.

30. The River called *New Bedford River*, from the *Hermitage* to *Salters Load*, with the Banks, Fore-lands, Wear-dykes and Sluces thereof.

31. The Drain that leads from *Ewel*-Fen to *Andrey Cauſey*, and from thence into the *Old Owze* at *Andrey* Bridge.

32. *Grunty-Fen* Drain, from *Grunty-Fen* to the *Old Owze* at *Littleport-Chair*, with its Banks.

33. Old *Welney* River.

34. *Littleport* Drain.

35. *Maid Load*.

36. The Drain that carries away *Hoggington*

tan Brook, with the Banks to be raiſed.

37. The River of *Grant*, from *Clay-hyth* to *Harrymeer*, with the Banks, Fore-lands, Wear-dykes and Sluces thereof

38. The Banks of the *Old Owze*, from *Harrimeer* to *Chitterings*.

39. The New Long Drain, from *Wicken* high Fen to the Tunnels under *Soham* new River, and ſo to the Tunnel under *Mildenhall* River, from thence to the Tunnel under *Brandon* River, and ſo to the Tunnel under *Wiſſey* or *Stoak* River, and from thence through *Downham's Eau* to the Sluces at the lower end thereof, near *Stow*-bridge.

40. The Eaſt Banks of *Owze*, from *Harrimeer* to the Brick Sluce at *Prickwillow*, with the Wear-dyke thereof.

41. The new Bank on the Weſt ſide of the River *Owze*, from *Harrimeer* to *Ely* high bridge.

42. The Drain from the Eaſt end of the *Adventures* Lands taken out of *Soham* Common, to the Wear-dyke of *Mildenhall* River.

43. *Mildenhall* River, with the Banks, Fore-lands, and Wear-dykes thereof.

44. The Eaſt Banks of the River of *Owze*, from *Mildenhall* River to the Sluce at the lower end of *Mildenhall* Drain near *Littleport Chair*.

45. *Mildenhall*-Drain from the laſt mention'd Sluce to *Mildenhall*-common.

46. The River of *Owze*, with the Banks, Fore-lands, Wear-dykes, Sluces and Tunnels thereof, from

from *Littleport Chair* to *Denver* Damm. Excepting the Sluces, Tunnels and Water-works heretofore made and maintained by *Edmond Shipwith* Eſquire, deceaſed, and others, particular Owners of Lands within or near the ſaid Great Level, for his or their own private uſe or benefit; and ſuch other Sluces, Tunnels and Water-works as hereafter ſhall be made by any Owners of Lands, by Contract or Agreement with the ſaid Corporation.

47. *Lakingheath* Drain, from *Wansford* Brook to the Tunnel under *Lakingheath* new Load, and ſo to the Tunnels under *Brandon River*.

48. *Brandon* River, with the Banks, Fore-lands, and Wear-dykes thereto belonging.

49. *Feltwel* Drain, to its Outfal into the River of *Owze* at *Palmer*'s houſe.

50. *Sams Cut* from *Feltwel* to the River of *Owze*.

51. *Stoke* River, with the Banks, Fore-lands, Wear-dykes and Sluces.

52. A Tunnel under *Methold Load* for the draining of *Norwold* Fens.

53. *Roxam* Drain, with the Banks thereof.

54. The Cart Bridge at the *Hermitage*, over *New Bedford* River.

55. The two Cart Bridges at *Mepal*, over the *New* and *Old Bedford* Rivers.

56. The Bridge over the *Twenty-foot* Drain in *Mepal* Droveway. With ſuch other Bridges as ſhall be declared by any ſubſequent Laws of Sewers.

And

And shall be from time to time preserved and maintained at the proper costs and Charges of the said Governour, Bailifs, and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, and their Successors, Owners of the ninety five thousand Acres, mention'd in a certain Act of Parliament, intituled, *An Act for setling the Draining of the Great Level of the Fens, called* Bedford-Level. And not by the Owners of any the Lands within the said Great Level, other then of the said ninety five thousand Acres.

Provided, That this Declaration, Order, Law or Decree, or any thing herein before mentioned, shall not extend or be made use of to invalid or make void any Contract or Agreement made by the said Earl of *Bedford*, Participants and Adventurers, or the said Governour, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the said Company of Conservators, with any Person or Persons, or Township, for maintenance and preservation of any Sasses, Sluces, Bridge or Bridges, Banks, Rivers, Drains, Ways or Passages, or other Work, within or without the said Great Level.

3. And it is further Ordered, Adjudged and Decreed, that all and every other the Drains, Division, Dykes, and Fence-dykes between Counties, Lords of Mannors, Parishes, Townships and particular Owners; and the Fence-dykes of every Parish, Hamlet, or Township, be-

tween their Fences and their Corn-fields, and between their Feed-fens and Mow-fens, and between the Severals and Commons, ſhall be kept and maintained with all neceſſary reparations from time to time, at the proper Coſts and Charges of the Owners, Occupiers or Perſons intereſſed in the Fens and Grounds next adjoyning thereunto, or that have heretofore, or of right ought to do the ſame, at their antient or preſent dimenſions, or ſo as the Court of Sewers ſhall from time to time direct and appoint, for the better conveyance of the Waters into ſome of the afore-mentioned publick Drains of the ſaid Corporation now uſed, for the Conveyance of the Waters of the ſaid Level, into the great Rivers, or to their out-fall at Sea.

4. And it is hereby further Ordered, Adjudged and Decreed, that no perſon or perſons ſhall at any time hereafter, upon any pretence, or by any ways or means whatſoever, make any incroachment upon, or ſtraiten the preſent dimenſions of any River, Waſh, Drain or Sewers, within or without the ſaid Great Level; nor ſhall cut, burn, caſt down, break open, or do any hurt or dammage to any River, Bank, Waſh or Fore-land within the ſaid Great Level, or without the ſaid Great Level, made by the ſaid Earl and Participants, or the ſaid Governour, Bailiffs and Conſervators; nor ſhall cut damm burn, caſt down, break open, or do any hurt or dammage unto any ſluice, Safs, Lock, Tunnel, Bridge, Gate or

Rail

Rail made within or without the ſaid Great Level, for, or conducing to the Dreining of the ſaid Great Level, or the preſervation thereof, otherwiſe then by Order or Decree of the Commiſſioners of Sewers for the time being, and appointed by the ſaid Act, nor ſhall make or cauſe to be made any Damns, Stops, Wears, or other Lets, Impediments, or Nuſances, in, or within any of the Rivers, Drains, Outring Dykes, Sewers, Waſhes, Fore-lands, or other work made within or without the ſaid Great Level, for the Dreining of the ſaid Great Level, or preſervation thereof, nor ſhall incroach upon, ſtreighten, or do any hurt or dammage to any Drove-way within the ſaid Great Level, ſet out upon occaſion of the dreining of the ſame.

5. And it is hereby further Ordered, Adjudged and Decreed, that no perſon or perſons at any time hereafter, without Order of, or from the Court of Sewers for the ſaid Great Level for the time being, ſhall erect any Building, Cottage, Dwelling or Hut upon any Bank, Drove-way, Waſh, or Fore-land, made by the ſaid *William* Earl of *Bedford*, his Adventurers and Participants, or by the Governour, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conſervators of the ſaid Great Level, within or without the ſaid Great Level; or make, ſet or place any Huts, Reeks, or Stacks of Corn, Hay-fodder, Turf, Haſſock, Thack, Sedge, Wood, Seſſes, or other Impediments

upon the ſaid Banks, Drove-ways, VVaſhes or Fore-lands; or which may tend to the annoiance and prejudice of the ſame works, or any of them. All and every which ſaid Erections, Buildings, Cottages, Dwellings, Huts, Reeks or Stacks, or other Impediments, are, and are hereby declared to be Nuſances.

6. And it is hereby further Ordered, Adjudged and Decreed, that no perſon or perſons ſhall at any time hereafter make, or cauſe to be made, any Waterings, or place for watering of Cattle within ten foot of any the ſaid Rivers, pub ick Drain, or any Outring or Diviſion, Dyke or Lot, Diviſion-Dyke, within the ſaid Level, to the ſtopping, annoiance or prejudice of them, or any of them, or of any part of them, or any of them; the which are, and are alſo hereby declared to be Nuſances.

7. And it is hereby further Ordered, Adjudged and Decreed, that no perſon or perſons whatſoever, ſhall at any time hereafter put, or cauſe any Swine to be put, or kept into or upon any of the Banks or Fore-lands of any of the Rivers or Sewers, within or without the ſaid Great Level, made, as aforeſaid, or uſed, as conducing to the preſervation of the ſame.

8. And it is hereby further Ordered, Adjudged and Decreed, that all Weers, Incroachments and Streightnings of the antient or preſent Breadth,

Breadth, Depth, Water-way or Paſſage of any River, Drain or Water-courſe, within the ſaid Great Level; and all Buildings, Cottages, Dwellings or Huts, upon any Drove-way, Waſh, or Fore-land, and all other Lets, Impediments and Nuſances whatſoever heretofore made in, within or upon any of the Rivers, Waſhes, Drains, Outring-diviſion, Dykes, Let, Diviſion-dykes, Sewers, Waſhes, Banks, Drove-ways, Fore-lands, or other works whatſoever, within the ſaid Great Level, ſhall be removed and redreſſed by the perſon or perſons, by whom or by whoſe appointment the ſame have been ſo erected, ſet up, made or continued; or by the Owners of the ſame for the time being, before the firſt day of *November* which ſhall be in the year of our Lord, One thouſand ſix hundred ſixty and ſeven; or in default thereof, by the Serjeant at Mace of the ſaid Great Level, at the charge of the perſon or perſons that ſo erected, or hath laſt continued the ſame.

FINIS.